



For Immediate Release
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**COMMERCE DEPARTMENT MAKES \$2.3 MILLION IN FINANCIAL AWARDS TO HELP U.S.
FIRMS EXPORT**

U.S. Commerce Secretary Donald Evans announced today that the Commerce Department will provide \$2.3 million in awards to seven non-profit trade organizations under the Commerce Department's Market Development Cooperator Program (MDCP), a public-private partnership developed to help small- and medium-sized U.S. firms expand exports that support jobs for Americans. The MDCP is a competitive matching grants program that builds partnerships by providing federal assistance to non-profit organizations involved in export promotion.

"The Cooperator program enables American businesses to take the risks necessary to innovate, and to pursue profitable export markets," Evans said. "Now, more than ever, we must be diligent in our efforts to expand trade and economic opportunity for America and around the world."

The seven awards, which total \$2.3 million, will go to the non-profit organizations listed below:

- C World Trade Center Association, Los Angeles-Long Beach, Long Beach, Calif.
- C The Montana World Trade Center at The University of Montana, Missoula, Mont.
- C Alameda Center for Environmental Technology, Alameda, Calif.
- C National Association of Credit Management, Inc., Columbia, Md.
- C Intelligent Transportation Society of America, Washington, D.C.
- C Evergreen Building Products Association, Tacoma, Wash.
- C Association for Manufacturing Technology, McLean, Va.

These organizations will dedicate an additional \$5.3 million dollars for export promotion to the \$2.3 million in awards by the Commerce Department.

Since 1993, the Commerce Department has made 61 MDCP awards totalling \$19 million. When all projects funded to date have been completed, the combined investment of this private/public partnership to develop foreign markets will have totalled \$67 million.

Organizations interested in the MDCP can obtain information by calling Brad Hess at the Commerce Department: tel. (202) 482-2969, or by visiting the MDCP web site at www.export.gov/mdcp.